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Published Saturday.

Address all communications direct to the office. WESSEL PRINTING CO., PUBLISHERS.

Courier Building, 1132 N Street. TELEPHONE 253

L. WESSEL, JR., Editor and Sole Proprietor, FRED BENZINGER, Associate Editor

POPULATION OF LINCOLN, 60,000.

THE state oratorical contest will be held at Bohanan's hall March 14. Four schools will compete: the State university, Wesleyan university, Doane college of Crete and Gates college of Elh. The orators will be banqueted in the evening.

THE Journal of last Tuesday editorially "roasted" the management of Funk's opera house. The Journal is said to have sixteen annual passes, each good for two persons, and the wishy-washiness of its dramatic criticisms has been attributed largely to that fact.

THE best news of all is the announcement that the B. & M. will build extensive shops at Havlock, Lincoln's suburb, if the property owners will donate 300 acres of land. The donation will undoubtedly be forthcoming. The shops are to cost \$250,000, and it is said they will employ 1,000 men.

THE guessers announce that D. G. Courtney, J. B. Herode, W. S. Hamilton and J. C. Johnson will seek the Republican nomination for county attorney. They also think James L. Caldwell is ready to retire on his honors and that Gen. McBride and Charles F. Severine are in the race for seats in the lower house of the legislature.

WHILE in the east the publisher of the COURIER ordered a number of large engravings to illustrate persons and events of current interest. The cuts will be made in the soft half-tone process and will be large and costly. The first will appear in the COURIER of next week. It will be a four-column portrait of Stanley, the great African explorer.

IN making a reply to a criticism of the taxpayers' league, G. M. Laubertson, city attorney, says A. P. S. Stuart, W. W. Holmes, Joseph Burns, Thomas Walton, A. Eddy and T. E. Stevens are worth about \$800,000 but pay to the city an aggregate personal tax of only \$166.98 on an assessment of \$2,900. This is unkind, but a man defending himself cannot be expected to use padded gloves.

OMAHA has a new scheme under way. When congress was asked for an appropriation for a new site for Fort Omaha it was urged that the old fort could be sold and the proceeds apply on the cost of the new. Omaha now wants congress to cede the old fort to the state of Nebraska for a military academy. If successful, Omaha will next winter ask the legislature for a big appropriation to run the proposed academy.

ONE of Omaha's brightest reporters, Carl Smith, went the rounds of his friends the other day, and to test their friendship asked for the loan of five dollars. Strange to say, he was successful in several cases. When he struck Dick Berlin, Dick said laconically: "Go you," wrote out his check and asked no questions. We hereby give our Dick fair notice that we shall call on him just as soon as we can work the railroads for a pass.

A NEW YORK house that got the first lot of the "Spider and Fly" puzzle sold 30,000 in three days. It's the greatest hit ever made with a puzzle in New York since the Pigs and Clover; and the manufacturer, who is amassing a fortune from this invention, says the sale will far exceed the "pigs and clover" before the craze dies out. Wessel Printing Co. have a few of them in stock, and all that our Mr. Wessel could get while in New York.

WE are assured that the new hotel for the southeast corner of P and Ninth streets is assured. The Lincoln Hotel company has been incorporated with \$150,000 capital stock by the following men: H. T. Clarke, C. C. Burr, E. E. Browne, John R. Clark, J. A. Backus, J. A. Harbit, N. C. Brock, H. D. Hathaway, O. N. Humphrey, L. Meyer, L. C. Pace, Charles Mayer, H. R. Nisley & Co., James Kelley, Fred Schmidt, Henry Veith, A. Hatter, J. M. Burks, A. K. Griffith, S. Seligson, Joseph Wittman, Jacob Roeko, W. O. Forbes and G. C. St. John.

A RECENT contribution of Al Fairbrother to the World-Herald's coffee takes off a Lincoln man in this style: "Postmaster C. H. Gere of Lincoln was in the city yesterday. It is not often that Postmaster Gere comes to Omaha, this being his first visit for something over two years. Mr. Gere looked at the crowded city—saw horse cars, cable cars, electric motors, buildings seven, eight and ten stories high, saw hacks with men riding in them—and he was bewildered. 'What is going on?' asked the editor and postmaster, as he adjusted his glasses and gazed up Farnam street. 'Nothing. Times are a little slow just now—just before the spring business,' remarked the stranger. 'But,' and Mr. Gere looked again, 'where are all these people going in the cars? What makes so many in the streets—is there a fire?' 'No, these people live here; some of them are shopping, some going home—but it is quiet on the streets to what it generally is,' again answered the stranger. 'Lawdakes!' said Mr. Gere as he took his note book from his pocket and wrote, 'Write an article on Omaha's hard times, and another article that Omaha people have said Tom Cooke was a thief,' and Mr. Gere went to bed and dreamed that he was in Chicago."

PRETTY PICTURE DRESSES

OLIVE HARPER TELLS HOW PLAIN GIRLS MAY LOOK ATTRACTIVE.

Oriental Costumes Are Finding Favor. Mrs. Cleveland's Turkish Embroidered Gown—Patterns for Ingenues—Some of the New Spring Fabrics—Fresh Millinery.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Picture dresses for young ladies are certainly very "fetching," and they are peculiarly adapted to such as are not particularly pretty, as the beholder's eye is apt to fall upon the costume rather than the face. Those who wear them should take pains to see that their hair is dressed in accordance with the style, otherwise it would destroy the whole effect. Many young girls who look positively plain in the ordinary costume of the day appear very attractive in a picturesque gown, copied from a portrait or a picture of some grande dame of a century or so ago. The gown can be exactly copied, or it can be modified in slight degrees. Velvet or velutina makes the most effective of these gowns, and next to that material is heavy brocaded silk.



A PICTURE DRESS AND MRS. CLEVELAND'S TURKISH EMBROIDERED COSTUME.

I give a picture of one of these costumes in black velvet, with a plain skirt very slightly draped in front, with a band of feather trimming around the bottom. Up the right side is a panel of brocade in pearl gray, with black and cardinal raised pattern. Three jet buttons, and a jet buckle trim the waist. The vest front is in cream colored Japanese crepe, and around the neck is a band of the feather trimmings. The jaunty velvet hat, with a ruby buckle and cardinal feather, adds just the touch of youthful brightness necessary. Perhaps the dress would be more elegant all in velvet, without admixture of any other material or color. Dark blue, green, brown or prune velutina would make up a very rich and handsome gown after this model, and it would only require at the most ten yards of this goods to make it. The feather trimming is about \$1.50 per yard, and it would need four yards of that. Velvet costs anything you are willing to pay for it, according to quality. The velutina is \$1 per yard, and is more used than silk velvets for costumes.

Oriental embroidering is getting quite a rage just now. Woolen and velvet house and street dresses have braiding mingled with applique embroidery. Mrs. Grover Cleveland wears such a costume made of black camels' hair with a band around the bottom done in scarlet and gold. A pointed girdele gives grace and slenderness to the waist, and there is a simulated Spanish jacket in the same kind of braiding which entirely covers the back. The sleeves are trimmed en suite.

It is curious that no one has noticed how large Mrs. Cleveland is. She is taller than the most of women and is far stouter than she looks, owing to the perfect symmetry of her figure, which her dressmaker takes pride in outlining and accentuating by her arts. Whatever gown Mrs. Cleveland has on, there is the same faultless fit and apparent simplicity in trimming. It is only when the figure is poor or undeveloped that a dress requires a profusion of trimming.

In the three toilets for young ladies are shown some of the latest styles for waists. One has a deep pointed peasant waist in black velvet over a dress of Havana brown, which is a favorite color this season. Velvet panels are placed at the sides. The shoulders and top of the front breadth are shirred. The middle dress has the front of Japanese crepe in pale blue, and the rest is of challies in pale blue and prune flowers, with prune velvet girdele, jacket cuffs and collar. The third costume is of gray and green striped surah, with four narrow tucks around the bottom. This model is exceedingly pretty for an ordinary home dress for a young lady.



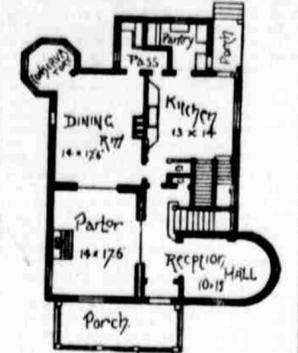
PRETTY DRESSES FOR INGENUES.

The new spring goods look like whole flower gardens seen under a microscope. Some of the flowers are magnified ten thousand diameters, and then again there are others with the tiniest little fairy flowers ever seen. The satens are cashmere finished, with a very heavy face in comparison with those heretofore shown, and wonderful dove colored and changeable effects are produced.

A COMPACT PLAN.

A House of Small Area Which Will Be of General Interest.

L. H. Gibson's book, "Fifty Convenient Houses" (Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York), contains many things of special interest to intending house builders. Here is a description with floor plans of a very compact, convenient house. The body of the structure is to be 30x34 1/2 feet. There are eight available rooms besides the bathroom and the attic.



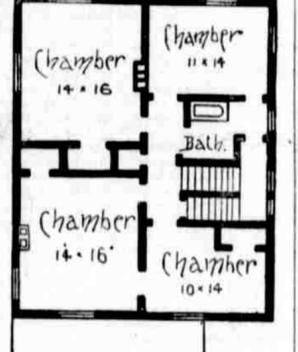
GROUND FLOOR.

On the first floor, as we enter, there is a reception or sitting hall, which is so common in the more modern arrangements of dwellings. This reception hall may be separated from the passage by curtains or portieres or sliding doors, in which event the opening from the room into the passage would have to be a little narrower than that shown in the drawings.

This room would present an attractive feature. The windows in this part of the room could be placed about four feet from the floor, in which event book shelves could be arranged below them. The window in front goes to within seventeen inches of the floor. Under the stairway, and leading from this room, may be placed a very liberal closet, in which there should be a small window.

Leading from the passage is the stairway and two closets. The little passage in which one closet is placed is separated from the hall by a door. There is another door opening from this passage into the kitchen. Thus there are two doors between the kitchen and the front part of the house. This arrangement has in mind the isolation of the kitchen from the other rooms in a way to prevent the passage of the usual kitchen odors.

The stairways in this house are of the class known as combination stairways; while they are convenient and easy of construction, there is a certain amount of complication in their arrangement which makes them difficult of description so as to be understood by those not accustomed to examining floor plans. There is the stairway from the front hall to the floor above, and one from the kitchen to the landing of the front stairway. The landing of the front stairway and that from the kitchen stairway is in common—that is, it is the same.



SECOND STORY.

For the purpose of making this understood, it may be well to say that one may go up the stairway from the front hall to the landing, some eight steps, and from thence down into the kitchen, or he can turn right face and go to the landing on the second floor. This part of the stairs is used coming up from the kitchen as well as from the front hall. However, the kitchen stairway is separated from the landing by a door. There is another door at the foot of this kitchen stairway.

In coming down stairs, one may turn to the right, open a door and go down into the kitchen, or he may turn to the left and go down the front stairway into the hall. By this plan everything is concentrated, and without the serious drawbacks which extra cost or a smaller number of rooms would imply to those who have only a little over \$2,000 to spend for a house without appearances. The head room for the stairway coming up from the kitchen is secured under the bath tub in the bathroom immediately above.

The cellar stairway is clearly indicated as going down parallel to the kitchen stairs and under the front stairs. The cellar in this house should be under the kitchen, stairways and the reception hall—that is, it would occupy all of one side of the house.

The parlor is 14x17 1/2 feet in size. It is connected with a hall by wide sliding doors, so that about one-half of this side of the room may be open. The grate opposite the sliding doors in the parlor would present a very beautiful view from the hall and stairway.

Our dining room has an independent connection with the front hall, so that we do not have to go through the parlor or the sitting room to reach it.

The doors leading from the passage into the dining room and kitchen should be hung on double swinging hinges.

The windows in this kitchen should be placed about three feet from the floor, so that tables may be placed under them. There is a place for a gas stove between the two windows, or even under them if desirable. The porch at the rear of the kitchen may be inclosed with lattice work, or, what is better, coarse louvered slats, like those of a shutter.

The door which leads from the porch into the pantry is a small one, placed above the ice chest, and is for the use of the ice man. The arrangement of rooms up stairs will be readily understood. Leading out of the hall is a store closet for bedding, etc. It is located so as to be accessible from all rooms. From the front end of the hall a door leads into the stair passage to the attic.

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